



Freemasonry and the Community — and the Development of Modern Society

**28 to 30 April 2006
Delta Lodge at Kananaskis**

Keynote Speaker

Mark A. Tabbert



Who is Mark Tabbert?

Mark Allen Tabbert is the youngest of five children and was born and raised in Iowa. He grew up in Burlington along the Mississippi, and received a B.A. in European History from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania in 1986. After a few years in the financial exchanges in Chicago, he moved to Pittsburgh, PA to work for the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania and to begin graduate work in American history and museum studies at Duquesne University.

During his graduate work he had become interested in Freemasonry and American fraternal organizations, and he did an internship at the Museum of Our National Heritage (MONH) in 1995. He received his M.A. in 1996. In 1997, he moved to Saint Louis and became the Exhibition Registrar at the Missouri Historical Society. This move allowed him to travel back to Burlington, Iowa, and to be made a Mason in his hometown, in Malta Lodge No. 318, in Burlington, Iowa. He also continued his research in American fraternal organizations and maintained contact with the Museum of Our National Heritage.

In 1999 he accepted the position of Assistant Curator at MONH and moved to Massachusetts. In February 2000 he was promoted Curator of Masonic and Fraternal Collections. Since 1999, he has written numerous articles, given several presentations and been curator for three exhibitions on Freemasonry. The most important of these is the long-term exhibition "To Build and Sustain: Freemasons in American Community" that opened June 2002.

Today, in 2006, WBro Mark A. Tabbert is the newly appointed Director of Collections at the [George Washington Masonic National Memorial](#) in Alexandria, Virginia. This facility, supported by all Masonic Jurisdictions in the United States, holds over 20,000 volumes of Masonic and related works, and it has extensive museum exhibits.

He is the author of *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities*, published jointly by the MONH and New York University Press in 2005. The book reached national prominence when reviewed by Jay Tolson in the [U.S. News and World Report](#).

He is the presiding Master of Mystic Valley Lodge, AF&AM in Arlington, MA, an honorary member of Anniversary Lodge No. 175, New Hampshire (June 2004), a member of the three York Rite Bodies, and is elected to receive the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, 33rd Degree in 2006.